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"COULD SAVE THE STATE \$1,000,000 A YEAR."

"If the Legislature used the same time and talent in efforts to reduce expenditures that is expended in making the department top-heavy, they could save the State \$1,000,000 instead of \$500,000 a year, and the government would continue to go along without trouble."

Is this from some chronic critic of the General Assembly? Is it the dictum of some amateur reformer or some unpractical publicist? Is it the statesmanlike platitude of a dead politician? Is it the dream of some Utopian theorist or the jeremiad of an impatient "goo-goo"? Not at all. It is the deliberate, frank statement of the Hon. Martin Williams, of Giles County, long-time member of the General Assembly and of late floor leader of the Democratic majority in that body.

Such was the testimony he bore to the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia at its convention in Roanoke Wednesday, as reported by the Roanoke Times. Discussing the antiprobhibition argument that were State-wide prohibition to be decreed by the people of this State there would be an annual loss of \$500,000 from the State treasury, he declared that "that sum sounds like a large sum to the average person who does not know that the collections of the State now amount to \$7,500,000."

Moreover, Mr. Williams is thus quoted: "Without bragging, I believe that I could take hold of the State department and so cut down expenses that the \$500,000 would not be missed."

Bolled down to the marrow, here are the two propositions of the Democratic floor leader: (a) if he were in charge of the government he could cut expenses by \$500,000 the year; (b) if the General Assembly would devote its time and talent to reducing instead of increasing expenditures, it could cut expenses \$1,000,000 a year.

Nelson W. Aldrich, when Republican majority leader of the Senate, three years ago, asserted that by proper economy in government the nation could save \$15,000,000 a year. Such an utterance, coming from so authoritative a source, more than any other single factor, was responsible for the movement for economy in the Federal government which has already saved the nation millions annually. Delegate Williams, in point of prestige, leadership and authority, occupies much the same position in the House of Delegates that Aldrich did in the Senate, and it is to be hoped that from the pronouncement of the experienced member from Southwest Virginia will flow as much relative benefit to Virginia as did from that of the veteran Rhode Islander to the nation.

It will be news to the people of the State and to most of the members of the General Assembly that there is a House Committee on Economy and Frugality. Do its members know they are in it? If this committee has ever met, or if a bill has ever been referred to it, the fact has escaped the attention of the Times-Dispatch. Let us hope that the stentorian voice of Delegate Williams will be the trump which will sound the resurrection of this committee. Let us hope that his statements will be the meat upon which it can ravenously revivify itself.

Too brief, all too brief, was Delegate Williams, in the opinion of the Times-Dispatch. He has left far behind a crumb, a mere hint of information, and the people hunger for more. Will the gentlemen from Giles specify wherein economy and retrenchment can be effected in the State government? What departments are top-heavy? What offices are useless? What officers are being overpaid? How and where in the State spending money unwisely, uneconomically, wastefully? Wherein should the General Assembly reduce expenditures? What items should be stricken from the appropriation bill? Where is the hole through which \$1,000,000 is being annually lost to the people? What fields of State activity are spendthrift? What heads should be lopped off, and why?

These things we ask, not in a spirit of doubt, but in a sincere inquiry for the public good. If \$1,000,000 a year can be saved in the government of Virginia, then, regardless as to how the fact affects prohibition, that amount ought to be saved. It is in the interest of public economy that further light is sought. Mr. Williams is well experienced in public affairs and informed in the public business—he has scrutinized many appropriation bills—and the people should have the benefit of his views. The Times-Dispatch hopes that the floor leader of that majority which has sanctioned all past public expenditures will let the people know how the General Assembly could save them \$1,000,000 annually.

How, Mr. Williams, how?

THE CRETAN INCIDENT.

An incident of the Balkan war that has escaped the general notice is its significance would seem to command the hauling down of the flag of the concert of powers in Crete. Since the Greece-Turkish war of 1875, waged by Greece chiefly for the purpose of delivering Crete from Moslem domination, under which it has suffered for 250 years, the affairs of the island have been administered by Great

Britain, Italy, Russia and France conjointly under the austerality of Turkey.

Evacuation by the powers settles the question of reannexation of Crete to Greece, from which it should never have been separated, since the population is overwhelmingly Greek, and that fact has caused it to be in an almost constant state of revolt for generations, and at the same time one of the most disturbing factors of the nearer East question.

Whatever may be the ultimate disposition, in adjusting the Balkan issue, of the other Grecian islands that Turkey has held, it is recognized that the powers have, by default, but none the less surely, confirmed the claim of Greece to the "ancient jewel" of her archipelago.

OUR ILLUSTRIOUS GUEST.

Baron Quenett in the earlier part of the last century was a guest of the Richmond Barbecue Club, when the Governor of Virginia, Chief Justice Marshall, of the Supreme Court of the United States, and several judges of the State Supreme Court of Appeals were engaged, with coats off, in a well-contested game of quoits. The Frenchman asked "if it was possible that the dignitaries of the land could thus intermix with private citizens," and when assured of the fact, he observed, with true Gallican enthusiasm, that "he had never before seen the real beauty of republicanism."

If another Quenett were in Richmond to-day he would make an observation in somewhat similar spirit were he to behold the Chief Justice of the United States in social intercourse with the members of the Richmond bar. There will be no occasion for coats off, for the good old game of quoits went out of fashion at a time whereof the memory of the man runneth not to the contrary, but in the simplicity and unaffectedness of the demeanor of him who presides over the most exalted and the most powerful court of all the nations of the earth would still be seen "the real beauty of republicanism." Mr. Chief Justice Edward Douglas White, ninth to occupy the seat that is the highest that an American can hold, has endeared himself to all men in all places by his consideration of others, his neighborly feeling, his exquisite courtesy, his approachableness, his lack of ostentation, and his love of his fellowmen. The simple black gown that he wears upon the bench is symbolic of far greater power than the ermine of the Lord Chief Justice of England, but it is Chief Justice White whom one often sits next to in Washington street cars, and who, it is said, frequently passes the time of day with those who happen to sit beside him.

Richmond is doubly honored when Mr. Chief Justice White comes to sit at board with her baristers—honored first because of the great office that he fills so ably; honored again in that he can accept but few such invitations because of the tremendous pressure of work that falls upon a member of the supreme tribunal in the republic. Once a Confederate private, he comes to the former capital of the Confederacy as the holder of the most honorable place in a reunited nation. In the home of the great Chief Justice he is welcome as one whom its people hold in high honor.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS.

One of the innovations of modern educational methods that is meeting with prompt and hearty support in Richmond is the open-air school. We believe that two open-air classes have been inaugurated, one in a city school, the other in a private institution. Already the success of these has inspired an insistent demand for the extension of out-door teaching facilities for other schools. It is voiced by mothers, individually and through organizations, and will, we trust, result in making this one of the characteristic features of our school system. While actual climatic conditions are not supposed to interfere with open-air schools, it must be true that the ideal weather that prevails in Richmond for a large part of the school year would make teaching outside the school-room both comfortable and effective.

Much stress is put upon this outdoor work as a new ideal in teaching. In fact, it is but the return to the original method of teaching. The greatest philosophers of Greece expounded their wisdom, or their personality, while walking in the groves or resting on the temple steps. So dominant was this location in their work, that we still speak of the school beginning in the classes held in the porch, or stoia, as the Stoics, and of the Peripatetics, the followers of Aristotle, who discoursed while walking in the Lyceum at Athens. In Asia, students squatted around a teacher in the open may still be seen. Moreover, although the sessions of school were held indoors, much of the actual life of the early American school to the country was outdoors. Within the last few years, some classes at the University of Virginia have been held on the lawn, and the walking classes in nature study, art, geology and agriculture are familiar throughout the country.

In the technical sense, open-air schools are those such as are conducted in Chicago or New York, in special pavilions or on the roofs of buildings. They originated thus for the use of pupils of tuberculous tendencies, for whom plenty of fresh air and sunshine were essential. But they have gone beyond the stage of experiments for defectives. Fresh air and sunshine are not an essential to preserve health as to restore it. The minds of children are invigorated by the natural stimulus of the open. They do more work, and better work, in a shorter time. The question of ventilation and disinfection is solved by the four winds. We imagine that the measles is not very prevalent in open-

air schools. Despite the exploded fear of cold, colds are also banished.

Healthier and wiser and better disciplined children are the rich products of the open-air school. We hope Richmond will speedily avail itself of this simple means of bettering the educational equipment.

WEST VIRGINIA'S NEW SENATOR.

"The one bright spot in West Virginia politics" was the comment of an expatriate West Virginian yesterday when he learned that Judge Nathan Goff, of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, had been elected United States Senator from West Virginia by the Republican majority in the Legislature. However much it was desirable from a Democratic standpoint to elect a Democrat, all Democrats agree that Senator-Elect Goff is the very best man that his party could have chosen; a man without fear and without reproach; a man whom almost half a century of public life has left with unsullied record. A gallant soldier of the Federal army, member of the West Virginia House of Representatives, twice United States District Attorney, twice Republican candidate for Governor, Secretary of the Navy in the Hayes Cabinet, member of Congress and United States circuit judge for two decades, he goes to the Senate full of years and honor, respected by all. The place came to him unsought as he sat upon the bench here in Richmond, where he has won the unlimited esteem and good will of its people. Virginia congratulates West Virginia upon her new Senator.

INVENTORY OF RAILROAD PROPERTY.

It now seems certain that the bill pending in Congress which provides for a physical valuation of railroads will soon become law. This measure is the result of repeated recommendations by the Interstate Commerce Commission, and has also had the support of traffic and shipping associations. The larger transportation systems have recently acquiesced in its passage, so far as its main provisions are concerned, although they have expressed grave doubts as to the ability of any valuation board in many instances to estimate accurately original costs of construction, because of the loss or destruction of many of the early records of the older railway systems. Within the past few days, the scope of the proposed legislation has also been greatly extended by an amendment which makes provision for the appraisal of the physical property of express, telegraph and telephone companies.

The enactment of the present bill will create many exceedingly difficult problems in theoretical and practical accounting. Some basis for the proposed physical valuation of railroad property must be arrived at, and even with a theoretical method of procedure in hand, there will be almost innumerable obstacles in the way of its practical application. The cost will be approximately several million dollars.

The advantage of the ascertainment of the tangible assets of the railroads will consist in affording some concrete basis for decisions by the Interstate Commerce Commission relative to the reasonableness or unreasonableness of freight rates which are brought before it for adjustment. There are many other factors which must needs be taken into consideration, but with this information in its possession, the Interstate Commerce Commission would be in a much better position to render fair decisions than it has in the past.

Knowledge of the value of the physical property of the transportation companies would also tend to prevent objectionable financial mismanagement such as stock watering or the purchasing of subsidiary companies upon an inflated basis. The results would seem to be more advantageous to the weaker companies which have had small economic justification for their construction, or those which are not affiliated with the larger systems. There is no reason for thinking that any impairment of credit or any curtailment of the incentive to engage in railroad undertakings would result from this legislation. The information relative to physical values would undoubtedly be most extensively used by shippers to oppose freight rate advances. The increase in earnings resulting from the growth of population, industry and trade along the right of way of a new or old railroad would still inure to the benefit of the stockholders of the railroad companies.

The new President kissed the old President of France twice during the inauguration ceremonies. We think even the lack of a ball might be forgotten if this same interesting phenomenon could be viewed by the populace on March 4.

Why would it not be a good idea to have a city architect? As Richmond grows his services will be well worth while.

Is this last fall or next spring?

We echo the hope of a contemporary that the end of big railroad strikes has come.

Madero will hardly have a chance to come back.

Where is the old-fashioned man who knew what the name of last week's president of Mexico was?

The New York forger who was pardoned because the alienists thought he had been cured of criminal tendencies by an operation on his brain has just been convicted of burglary. Next time they had better operate on his hands.

After about six suffrage hikers had been left strewn along the road to Washington, we think it was very inappropriate for a cadet band to welcome the residue with such tunes as "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here" and the "Girl I Left Behind Me."

The modern stock-ticker ought to be fixed to J. P. Morgan's pulse.

"Bar Donkeys From the Inaugural Parade" reads a headline. Who is going to pass on the donkeys?

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

The Food Cure.
Abijah Binks was noted for his great array of wealth. In fact, he had most everything excepting perfect health. Long years ago the doctors said that he was doomed to die, and nothing seemed to do him good, no matter what he'd try. He left off eating anything excepting breakfast food. He never tackled corn beef hash or anything so rude. A panake made him turn away in horror and disgust. To starve himself to death to live, it seemed Abijah must.

His liver was all out of whack, his nerves were all askew. Dyspepsia racked his feeble frame, no matter what he'd do. He tried mud baths and went abroad to take a famous cure. But still he kept on fading in a manner slow but sure. He looked up patent medicines for twenty years or more. Until he felt just like he was a corner drugstore.

He ate so much digested food, he often used to say. He somehow felt that he was just a walking bale of hay. With all his wealth, life held but naught for this old man forlorn; He often wished that he was dead or never had been born. One melancholy day he thought his own life he would take.

His suicide should come about by eating sirloin steak. He ate a nice big juicy one and laid him down to die. But got up feeling quite refreshed, and then he tackled his breakfast food. The pie refused to take him off and in a frenzied mood. He ate a can of pork and beans and quit his breakfast food.

For seven weeks he tried and tried to kill himself that way. He kept on growing heavier, and each succeeding day. He took a dose of hardy food that was a little worse. But 'e'n sauerkraut and pickled tripe refused to call the harse. At last he gave up in despair, for he was growing fat.

He kept on eating fishish things, and then he decided that. If he must live he'd do it right and eat whatever he liked. And seven doctors gave him up and packed their kites and hiked. This befell many years ago, and Binks is eighty-one. And feels just like a kid whose life has but begun.

From the Hickoryville Clarion.
Lem Higgins says as how he hopes the new Democratic administration will make his postal cards bigger and give the public their money's worth. A feller can't write more money's worth. He wants to on the kind we get now.

It beats all how much sleep a five-month-old kid kin go without. Late Sunday's youngest has yelied twenty-four hours a day ever since he was born, and has got both of his parents tuckered out.

By the time a new Congressman gets next to the crooks and turns of the somebody to take his place. They have now except a one-eyed man hookin' his wife up the back.

A feller has got to go a long way to find a more fillin' and cheaper food than buckwheat pancakes. After eating about eight or twenty of 'em a feller kin worry along until noon, anyhow.

It seems as though a feller never gets enough money to take a vacation until he is too old to enjoy it, and would rather stick around home.

A woman kin wear thin like stockings and low summer shoes all winter and still be very comfortable if she has got a \$200 set of furs.

A good baseball player kin make more money than a college professor and have a lot more fun while he is doin' it.

One way to sit ahead is to drink a lot of champagne before retiring. The trouble with most brands of soup is that they don't match a fellow's shirt front.

Uncle Bushrod Peeler, aged ninety-six, is over to our town from West Hickoryville, visiting his granddaddy, who is not in a very robust state of health just at present, having been knocked insensible by a large log which he was putting on top of a pile the other day. The old man is always glad to see Bushrod, as the latter is his favorite grandchild, although he often says he don't know as he is bringin' Bushrod up right. Bushrod has got seventeen grandchildren of his own. The old man never found out that Bushrod smokes until one day last summer, and he was so sore about it that he knocked Bushrod down three times with a neck yoke. The old man said kids like Bushrod are mighty on-manegeable these days. No member of the Peeler family has died a natural death in fifteen generations, and the old man is afraid Bushrod will learn to smoke cigarettes. It must be herce to have so much longevity as the old man has got when the cost of livin' is so high.

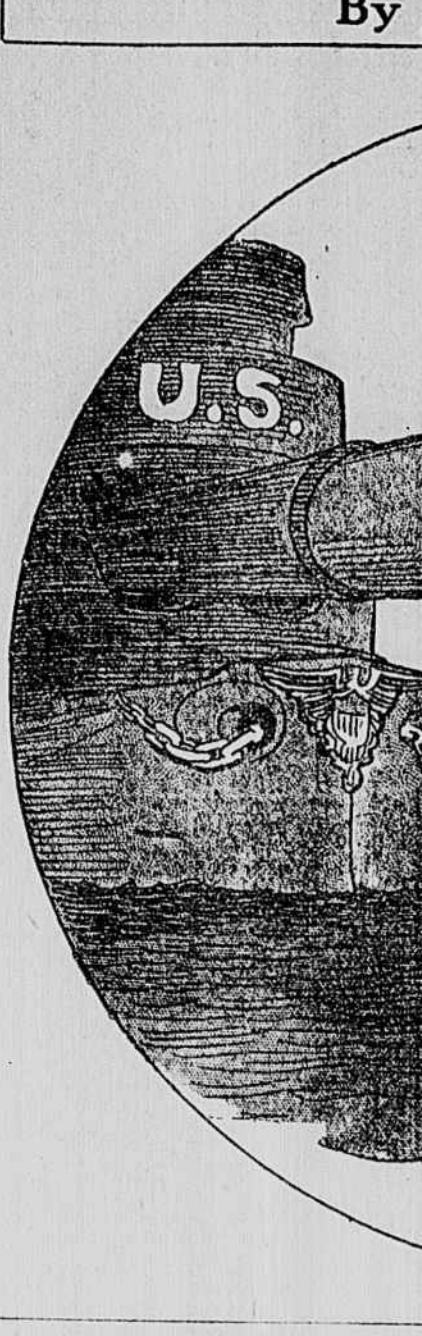
Voice of the People

Why Walter Needs Tips.
To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir:—Please give this letter space tomorrow, or as early as possible, as an answer to the editorial, "The Automatic Tip." It is all right when a ser-

OUR EYES ARE ON THEM.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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reversed as between the United States and Germany, our gain on the five crops, wheat, rice, barley, oats and potatoes, in 1907 would have reached the sum of \$1,376,915,000 in national wealth. Had Germany and other European countries made no more agricultural progress within the last thirty years than has the United States, wheat, as measured by the world's gold, would now be worth \$3 per bushel and beef \$1 per pound. The matter from which I am taking the verses is with them a case of "root pig or die," they will surely root, but we must get down to the soil. Many traditions must be relegated. New ideals must be constructed. We must undergo radical revolution in public system of training youth. We must educate less with the vague and indeterminate idea of the value of education "per se" and more with the idea of adaptability and application.

Wakenfield. S. V. WATKINS.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Linger Not Long.
You who wrote the verses "Linger not long, Home is not home without thee," tell me where the first stanza or "Revs." This is no other than the Hon. Richard Evelyn Byrd, late Speaker of the House of Delegates, later groomer of a presidential candidate, and now United States attorney for Western District of Virginia in prospect.

Which causes us to exclaim, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

Can it be that our distinguished friend was breveted upon the field of battle in this war against the Rum Devil and made a soldier of rank in the cold water brigade?

Has he laid aside the insignia of office and clothed his manly form in the sacerdotal robe?

Did the Rev. James Cannon lay hands upon him and baptize him with the fiery flame of his maledictions against rum and rum statesmen and anoint him a priest after the order of Melchisedec? For this Melchisedec, King of Salem (not Roanoke), which is by interpretation King of Peace, was a priest at the regular line, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but "abideth a priest continually."

If it be thus with Father Byrd, we hail him High Priest of Winchester and say, Good luck to yer Riverence! Newport News Times-Herald.

Mr. King May Make the Race.
The suggestion made in these columns a week or ten days ago that ex-State Senator P. W. King, of this city, enter the contest for Attorney-General in the primary to be held this coming summer, has been favorably received in all parts of the State. A large number of newspapers have made reference to the probable candidacy of Mr. King, and his friends have manifested unusual activity. As yet Mr. King has made no decision, but if certain contingencies do not arise he may cast his hat in the ring and measure strength with Attorney-General Williams.—Clifton Forge Review.

Free.

About the only real free things that come to humanity in these times are measles and advice.—Staunton Leader.

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